

**COLLECTION:** Harvard University Archives

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ACCESSION  
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**ERRATA:**

**COMMENTS:**

Letter to Putnam from Hrdlicka written on Sept. 28, 1899 from "Animas River." States that Hrdlicka had just finished eight days at Kin-be-iola and found over fifty graves plus have opened quite a few in other places, "principally about Kin-be-iola and about Chaco." Gathered quite a bit of pottery and many skulls, the great majority of skeletal material was "more or less decayed and could not be recovered perfect." Will be able to define physical character of the ancient Pueblos. Says the pottery will be packed by Pepper. Adds that "the mounds that Mr. Wetherill spoke of did not yield anything, they were ransacked by Navajos."

**CITATION:**

Hrdlicka  
1899

In Harvard University Archives; Papers of Frederic Ward Putnam,  
HUG 1717.2.1. Box 10 Folder 1891-1900 H-I



Quinn River

Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> 1899

My dear Professor,

This is written at the evening fire, and so you must not mind if there should be a speck of dirt somewhere. I did not leave writing to you to this moment, but the letter I had for you got so crumpled and stained in my pocket that I dare not send it; and nevertheless I want to mail you a few words to-morrow, so they reach you soon after your return to Cambridge.

I have finished the digging and am returning to Mancos. We spend eight days at Kin-be-iola and found altogether a little over fifty graves; and we have opened quite a number in other places, principally about Kin-be-iola and about Chaco. The results of the whole work are quite fair, though not what I should wish them to be. We gathered quite an amount of

pottery, but there are not many skulls and even other bones in good condition. The great majority of these are more or less decayed and could not be moved perfect, no matter how much care was used in the gathering. Besides this great many bones are damaged by rats, of some skulls we found only little particles in their holes. Notwithstanding all this I think I will be able from what I got and from what was obtained before to be able to reach some definite conclusion as to the physical character of the ancient Pueblos. I secured one fine petroglyph, besides the bones. The skulls and bones I packed at once myself, the pottery will be packed under the supervision of Mr.

Pepper. The mounds that Mr. Weatherill spoke of did not yield anything, they were ransacked by the Navahos.

I am very glad of the occasion to go among the Utes, though I am somewhat apprehensive as to my success among them, having run out of all supplies; but perhaps I may be able to get some few things at Mancos. I shall, however, have to restrict myself to measurements and photographs, for I had only 75<sup>th</sup> of plaster left, which would at best give me but seven casts, and a new supply of plaster could not be obtained before considerable time. If everything goes well with the Utes I expect to return to New York about the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.

I hope sincerely that both, Mr. Putnam and you returned well and without any accident. The journey was no small undertaking for both of you; but perhaps what you saw has repaid some of your troubles. The Harbours are asking about you and so do people along the road. The Harbours want to know when you are coming again.

So much for to-night; I must not forget that you must much rest and with all your other work do not want to be tired by long letters. With best regards to you and Mr. Putnam, and begging to be remembered to the other members of your family, I am  
 your  
 D. R. Hildreth.